

quotes "*Paribis* Geoffroy" as a synonym of *Eudocimus*, without further indication of its original occurrence or its date. Later authors have failed to find where it was originally given, and I have not been more fortunate; the name is possibly only a manuscript name. In view of these circumstances it seems desirable to adopt one of the names given by Reichenbach, *Leucibis* being preferable on account of its correct Greek derivation, as compared with the barbaric *Guara*. Until the question about *Paribis* can be settled the two North American species should stand as

- R. 501. *Leucibis alba* (Linn.) Reichenb., and
 R. 502. *Leucibis rubra* (Linn.) Stejn.

Heteroscelus Baird, 1858, unfortunately will have to give way for *Heteroscelis* Latreille, 1825. As a substitute may be employed

Heteractitis,

from ἕτερος = different, and ὁ ἀκτίτης = an inhabitant of the shore. The North American species will stand as

- R. 553. *Heteractitis incanus* (Gmel.) Stejn.

Before closing these remarks I would call attention to the fact that *Ligea* Cory, 1884, is preoccupied, whether spelt *Ligea* or *Ligia*. The former name was employed by Dybowski for a mollusk; the latter by Fabricius for a crustacean. It seems desirable that Mr. Cory should supply the genus with another name.

NOTES ON CERTAIN LARIDÆ AND PROCELLARIIDÆ OF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

BY CAPT. J. W. COLLINS.

IN the second volume of 'New England Bird Life,' edited by Dr. Elliott Coues, statements are made concerning the habits of

certain species of our sea-birds to which it seems desirable to call attention, since, as I am informed, similar statements, though erroneous, have generally been put forth as facts by the majority of American ornithologists.

It is stated that the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus major*)—the 'Hag' or 'Hagdon' of the fishermen—and the 'Black Hag' (*P. fuliginosus*), both of which usually come and go together, are winter birds on our coast. Though it may appear egotistical for me to question such high authority, I am, nevertheless, compelled to say that these birds are not found with us in winter, unless, indeed, a stray specimen might be seen. In thirty years of sea-life off the coasts of New England and the British North American Provinces, I have never seen any 'Hags' in winter, nor have I learned of their occurrence at that season. They usually come in May, the time of arrival being slightly varied by the condition of the weather. In the spring of 1879 I saw the first 'Hagdon' (*P. major*) on May 26, and three days later they were abundant, sitting on the water in large flocks, as is their habit when they first reach the fishing banks, or when they are about to depart in the fall, though at other times they rarely congregate except they may be attracted together by the presence of food. They usually leave the fishing grounds—from Cape Cod to the Grand Bank—in October and November; the first snow starts off any of these birds which have remained behind their companions.

I have no knowledge of where or when they breed. I have opened many hundreds (it would not, perhaps, be an exaggeration to say thousands), and I never found one with sexual organs in a condition which would indicate that the birds were breeding.

Dr. Coues also speaks of the Arctic Jaeger (*Stercorarius buffoni*) as "occurring off the coast in fall and winter, with other species of the genus." This is the 'Whiptail' of the fishermen, sometimes also called 'Marling Spike,' though the latter name is more generally applied to the Pomarine and Richardson's Jaegers. All of the Jaegers are most abundant in spring and fall, as I find by consulting my notes; are rarely seen in mid-winter, and are comparatively scarce in mid-summer. The Arctic Jaeger I have not seen in winter, so far as I can remember, and I have no notes concerning it at that season. It is not, however, at all improbable that it may occasionally be seen

during winter. I have noted the appearance of the larger species at that season, though always in small numbers and on comparatively rare occasions. *S. buffoni* occurs in summer and fall from George's Bank to the Grand Bank—probably has a much wider range. It is never abundant and is much more timid than the other birds of this genus. In September, 1878, Mr. R. L. Newcomb (who afterwards went on the ill-fated 'Jeannette') collected some birds of this species on Banquereau, and the next summer I obtained several specimens near the same place. These are now in the Smithsonian collection.

The Great Skua, the 'Sea-hen' of the fishermen (*Stercorarius skua*), is occasionally seen on the fishing grounds at all seasons. It is never abundant, one, two, or three birds being generally seen at a time, and on very rare occasions perhaps a half dozen will gather around a vessel from which offal is being thrown out. I have found them most common on the Grand Bank in autumn, and in the fall of 1875 I shot several fine specimens that were used as bait. I believe they occur far more frequently than is generally supposed. In some notes, on the habits and methods of capture of various species of sea-birds which are used for bait, that I have prepared for publication in the Annual Report of the U. S. Fish Commission, occasional mention is made of the Great Skua. From November 27, 1878, to July 5, 1879, 'Sea-hens' were seen on four occasions. On the 17th of last October, while passing Nantucket South Shoal in the U. S. Fish Commission Steamship 'Albatross,' I saw a pair of these birds fly across the vessel's bow not more than 200 yards distant.

Fulmarus glacialis—called 'Marbleheader,' 'Noddy,' 'Oil-bird,' etc., by fishermen—which I notice has been considered a rare bird, is fairly plentiful in winter from George's to the Grand Bank, and is often seen in summer east and north of Cape Sable, Nova Scotia. In former years many hundreds if not thousands of them were caught by the Grand Bank fishermen and used for bait. The great voracity of these birds renders their capture by hook and line a comparatively easy task, and they are frequently caught in this way by the men who are "fishing' for 'Hagdons.'"